

Co-operation Courage Respect Responsibility Resilience

*"Learn and discover, care for each other"*



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year!

### **Morning Routines**

We are delighted that the term has started with significantly reduced pupil lateness in the morning. It is very important that all children arrive in time for the 8:55am bell to enable essential administration, including registration and lunch ordering, to be completed accurately first thing by the class teacher.

### **Campus Safety**

Over the holidays work has been started to install zebra crossings at two points within the entrance areas of the campus. This work is not complete and the existing crossing patrols continue to be in place.

While no date has yet been given for the ending of the crossing patrols, **all parents/carers must now avoid driving into the campus between 8:30am and 3:30pm.**

**Recommended alternative parking is in the Church/Donaldson Park car park** which is only a short walk to the school.

Additional steps that are planned over the next few weeks include -

- Displays around the campus reminding parents/carers of the 'no parking' expectations. PC Barclay, who has a campus role, will also at times throughout the year monitor cars and buses within the campus, providing advice where required.
- Regular road safety information and reminders to pupils at weekly assemblies and within the curriculum
- A special P1-P7 Balfron Campus road safety assembly on Friday 6th September which will include a talk by PC McCammon.

While all of these steps, if followed, should make a positive difference to road safety for our pupils as we transition from supervised crossing patrol to unsupervised zebra crossings, the campus will remain busy.

Ultimate responsibility for ensuring that pupils arrive and leave the campus safely, remains with parents and we therefore **anticipate and welcome an expected increase in numbers of parents walking to and from the school with their children, providing necessary supervision.**

### **Sickness**

At the start of the year it is important to remind parents that in order to reduce opportunities for spread of infections, when children suffer from a sickness or diarrhoea bug they should not return to school until 48 hours after the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.

Attached to today's newsletter is helpful guidance for parents produced by Public Health Scotland on infectious diseases. Please take time to read this important information detailing periods when children should/should not stay off school –

# Should I keep my child off school or childcare?

✓ **Yes**

Illness	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the advice on NHS inform if they've tested positive for COVID-19
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics

✗ **No**

but make sure you let their school or childcare know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Head lice	Threadworms
Glandular fever	Tonsillitis	Slapped cheek

Parents and carers can find further health advice on [nhsinform.scot](https://www.nhsinform.scot)

## Advice and guidance

To find out more, scan the QR code or visit [publichealthscotland.scot/hpcyp](https://publichealthscotland.scot/hpcyp)



Last session we were advised by a few parents that their children had contracted threadworms; therefore as a reminder for the year ahead we again include the NHS guidance for your information and would ask that you check and get the appropriate treatment from your GP/Pharmacist if required and remain vigilant over the coming weeks. Handwashing is particularly important and this message is also being reinforced in school.

[Threadworms | NHS inform](#)

Vigilance around head lice is always needed and again we attach NHS guidance for your information.

[Head lice and nits - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

The school also has head lice combs which are available free from the office.

## **Nut Allergy**

We aim to be a nut free school, as some of our pupils have related allergies. Children should therefore not bring nut based snacks into school.

## **Meet the Teacher** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September

As usual, our Meet the Teacher evening will be divided into two sessions, 5.00pm – 5.30pm and 5.30pm – 6.00pm and will provide parents in P1 – P7 the opportunity to meet with their child's new teacher, find out about class routines as well as learning and teaching in the classroom. Individual pupil progress will not be the focus for the evening. The second session will be a repeat of the first one and allows parents to visit two different classes.

There will be no crèche facilities during Meet the Teacher though pupils are welcome to attend class presentations.

A class newsletter will also be sent home to families summarising how learning will be planned from August to December.

### **Flu Vaccine**

Flu vaccines for P1-P7 will take place on the morning of Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Consent forms from NHS Forth Valley have already been issued and should be returned to the school office by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August.

### **School Website**

Our school website can be accessed at <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/balfronprimary/> and we hope that parents/carers will use it as a reference point for key information, so please keep checking throughout the year.

The following key documents are available on our website:

#### **1. Standards and Quality Report**

Our school's 2023/2024 Standards and Quality Report details the progress made by the school last session as well as listing all of our improvement priorities for the year ahead.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/public/balfronprimary/uploads/sites/3193/2024/08/19110514/SQR-BALFRON-PS-2023-2024-1.pdf>

#### **2. School Uniform Policy**

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/public/balfronprimary/uploads/sites/3193/2024/08/19103414/BPS-School-Uniform-2024-25.pdf>

We already have a collection of 'lost property' at the school's main entrance. Parents are encouraged to come and find that missing jumper and also reminded to ensure uniform is labelled with the pupil's name.

#### **3. End of Day Protocols**

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/public/balfronprimary/uploads/sites/3193/2023/08/28082739/End-of-school-day-Protocol-Balfron-PS-August-2023.pdf>

#### **4. The whole school Anti-Bullying Policy**

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/public/balfronprimary/uploads/sites/3193/2022/09/07105614/Balfron-PS-Anti-Bullying-Policy.pdf>

##### **b. Pupil Policy** which was developed last year

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/public/balfronprimary/uploads/sites/3193/2023/10/26094810/No-to-Bullying-poster-Oct-2023.pdf>

##### **c. Stirling Council's Policy – Respect for All** which is aligned with our school approaches

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/public/balfronprimary/uploads/sites/3193/2024/05/23091259/stirling-g-council-approach-to-respect-for-all.pdf>

##### **d. Respectme – national anti-bullying advice**

<https://respectme.org.uk/>

##### **e. Anti-Bullying : School Question & Answer**

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/public/balfronprimary/uploads/sites/3193/2024/06/11071830/Bullying-Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf>

#### **5. Our established Homework Policy** provides a summary of our approaches to supporting children and families with set home learning tasks.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/public/balfronprimary/uploads/sites/3193/2022/09/07105403/Home-Learning-and-Home-Work-Framework-2022-2023.pdf>

Homework for P1-P7 will begin on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

6. RSHP - As well as a range of other information our website also provides a link to our policies on **Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP)**

Parents will be able to find links to the Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) national resource <https://rshp.scot/> used by all teachers to support our updated school programme which is in line with Curriculum for Excellence. Lessons take place across all stages throughout the school year.

While this national resource is available in its entirety including lesson resources, our updated school programme is also clearly identified on the website at:  
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/balfroprimary/rshp/>

- *RSHP Curriculum for Excellence Outcome Overview*
- *Early Level progression – nursery to P1*
- *First level progression – P2 to P4*
- *Second level progression – P5 to P7*

Links to parent information videos on our website include –

- *Why does RSHP matter?*
- *Is the national RSHP age and stage appropriate?*
- *What do children and young people want from RSHP education?*
- *What is the role of parents and carers in RSHP education?*

### **Lunch Costs**

Parents are reminded that the cost of a pupil lunch in P6-P7 has increased to £2:50 this term. Pupils in P1-P5 receive free school lunches. The 3-week menu is attached as an appendix and can also be found on the school website.

### **P6 Bikeability**

All P6 pupils will take part in Bikeability 1 training on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Along with Mrs Witherspoon, the recyke-a-bike team will be delivering this year's training, as well as Bikeability 2 in April 2025, and they will be able to provide some bicycles and helmets where required. Further information will be sent out to P6 parents this week.

### **Food & Farming Class Visit**

P5 and P6 will be attending a RHET Food & Farming Event for primary schools, held at Solsgirth Home Farm, Dollar on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September. The event will focus on Farm to Fork, Health & Wellbeing, Developing the Young Workforce and sustainable living. It will feature a wide range of activity providers from across the food, farming and environmental sectors.

This joint event between RHET Perth & Kinross and RHET Forth Valley includes 50% transport grants for the bus. Permission slips for P5 & P6 will be issued shortly.

### **Class Assemblies**

The dates for class led assemblies to parents of pupils who are presenting is shown below. Parents should arrive just before 1:45pm for our Friday class assemblies.

24 <sup>th</sup> January	P6
28 <sup>th</sup> February	P5
28 <sup>th</sup> March	P3
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	P2
13 <sup>th</sup> June	P1

P4 will be leading the Christmas church service on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 9:30am

P7 have chosen to perform a school play, later in the year. Further details including performance dates and times will be shared with families when they are in place.

## **P7 Roles**

Throughout the year all of our P7s have different leadership roles and responsibilities, tasked with helping other pupils and staff while acting as excellent role models. We are delighted with the start to the year shown by our current P7 class.

The following pupils have already been given additional responsibilities:

### **House Captains**

Donaldson and Burns – Ashley MacDonald & Shona Coull

Gorman and Bruce – Lacy Harrower & Alistair Christie

Thunberg and Wallace – Eva Hardie & Alex Bark

### **P7 Big Buddy Co-ordinators**

Maxwell Morris, Kayden Smeed, Ella McTavish & Martha Gormley.

### **Inclusion Ambassadors**

Emma Mitchell & Noah Spriggs

### **Lead Pupil Council**

Natalie Fraser and Isobel Campbell

### **Wet Weather Class Monitor Co-ordinators**

Rebecca Gribben, Liam Hallyburton, Emily MacDonald & Cameron Shearer

## **NSPCC**

The NSPCC ***Speak out Stay safe*** programme is a free safeguarding programme consisting of child friendly, interactive video assemblies and supporting lesson plans, activities and resources. In Stirling NSPCC also offers volunteer led follow up workshops for P3, P6 & P7 after staff have delivered the assemblies.

The programme aims to help children:

- understand abuse in all its forms and recognise the signs of abuse;
- understand that abuse is never a child's fault, and they have the right to be safe;
- know how to get help, and the sources of help available to them, including the Childline service.

There will be two NSPCC assemblies on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September – the first for P1-P3 and the second for pupils in P4-P7. Separate workshops for P3, P6 and P7 will take place on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September.

## **Pupil Achievement**

Last term, Effie Larkin P4 raised the fabulous amount of £450 for Cancer research by taking part in a Race for life event. We were delighted to share Effie's picture with her medal on the school foyer screen.

Please do keep sharing any achievements out of school by emailing us a picture to [balfps@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:balfps@stirling.gov.uk) and these will be displayed on the school screen.

## **Mobile phones**

Mobile phones are not required in school to support learning in class and therefore the expectation is that they are not brought into school by pupils.

If on an exceptional case, some parents require their child to have a phone for contact purposes after 3:15pm, for example if attending an after-school club or bus journeys, phones should be kept in bags at all times during the school day. Please note that Smart watches with phone access should also not be brought into school.

## **Playground**


Many of our children enjoy exploring our bushes and trees during playtimes. Playground staff as part of their supervision duties, encourage pupils to play creatively and the abundance of hedges and trees

certainly support exciting and imaginative pupil ideas. While pupils are closely monitored and are not allowed to climb high within any hedge or tree, occasionally some children do get scratched by twigs etc. when they climb or get down. When a child does get a scratch or small injury a record slip will be sent home. If you do not want your own child to climb or explore within our school grounds please do make sure that they are clear of your expectations, as well as informing the school.

### **Dogs in the playground**

Parents are reminded that dogs, even on leads, are not permitted in any part of the school playground either at the beginning or end of the school day.

Yours sincerely



Angus Black  
Headteacher

### **Dates for the Diary**

<b>August</b>		
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Council AGM	7:00pm in school hall
<b>September</b>		
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Homework begins	
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	P6 Bikeability 1	
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	P1-P7 parents - Meet the Teacher	5:00pm – 6:00pm
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Council Meeting	7:00pm
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	P5 & P6 Food and Farming class visit to Solsgirth Home Farm, Dollar	
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>	NSPCC workshops – P3, P6 & P7	
<b>October</b>		
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday	School closed to pupils and staff. Nursery remains open
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Winter term starts	8:55am
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Individual and Family photographs in school	morning
<b>November</b>		
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	P1-P7 Flu vaccines	morning
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	P1-P7 Parents Evenings	5:00pm – 7:30pm
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	P1-P7 Parents Evenings	3:30pm – 6:00pm

<b>December</b>		
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	P1-P3 Nativity	1:45pm & 6:00pm
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	End of term church service – P4 leading	9:45am
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	End of Term	12:45pm
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Holiday	School closed to pupils and staff
<b>January</b>		
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	New Term	8:55am